

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of FRANCE

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Thursday, April 19. 1794.

THE Digression of the last Paper, I hope, will be Excus'd from the real Value of its Subject, however weakly perform'd; I pursue with some Impatience, the Matters of Trade before me, in order to return to what I have farther to say on the Glorious Subject of the Nations Peace.

I have already own'd the Subject of the Nations Peace, to be, as it really is, a Matter of great Moment, and very suitable to the Design of this Paper, a Subject that in its Nature is too Importunate to be Omitted, or indeed Adjourn'd, and I hardly know what to Answer for Adjourning it: But as I am willing to do every thing possible, that may render this Paper, both Useful and Seasonable, I shall make an Essay on all these Heads, as soon as the present Head relating to the *English* Manufactures is at an end; and that I have but made a short Introduction on the next Article, *viz. Of Publick Credit*, in which the Nature, Conduct, Mischiefs, and Advantages of the *Bank of England*, and other *Banks*, now Erected or Erecting in this Nation, will come of course to be spoken to; the late Act of Parliament for the Currency and Regulation of Promissory Notes be Examined; the Extensive Benefit of it Explain'd, and a Map of Paper Credit drawn for the Benefit of such, as yet are at some loss about these things, and the Injury of all Engrossings of Cash, laid Open and Expos'd.

These vast Oceans of Publick Business, are too many to go through in the Compass of these Sheets, and at the same time to suffer any Digressions; but that the Publick may not want any useful Observations, the Author is capable to make, I shall take the Freedom, on these Occasions, rather to Adjourn sometimes the Entertaining part of this Paper, than not to prosecute with all my Power, any thing that may give an Opportunity of being serviceable to the General Good.

The last Paper brought me to Examine the Publick Fatal Consequences of sinking the Price of Labour in *England*.

I had brought it to a Calculation of an Eighth Part, and that this would, in proportion, sink Provisions; and the Rents, and that the Value of our Freeholds One in Eight all over *England*.

Now the Value of Rents being sunk an Eighth Part, it must be a Consequence; all our Levies upon Land will be lessen'd in proportion; 4 s. in the Pound Land Tax will then raise no more than 3 s. 6 d. now: 8 d. per Pound for the High-ways no more than 7 d. now, and so of all Pound Rates for the Poor, Constables, Church Rates, and all Parish Hundred, or County Charges.

By this means, your Lands are not only sunk an Eighth in Value, but the Charges, Taxes, and

and Payments upon them Encrease One in Eight upon what remains; which is a second Reduction of Value.

The Consequences of this, as to Publick Affairs, are very plain, as before.

1. That in the War with our Neighbours we shall be one Eighth Part weaker than before; we must appear in the Field with One Thousand Men in Eight less than we can now; and at Sea with One Ship in Eight less in our Navy, and consequently be One Year in Eight longer a doing every thing we undertake.

The Power of Nations is not now measur'd, as it has been, by Prowess, Gallantry, and Conduct. 'Tis the Wealth of Nations that makes them Great, and that People shall certainly subdue their Enemies at last, who can bear the Expence of the War longest.

The Romans, indeed, gain'd the Wealth of other Nations by subduing them, and their own Poverty was the Spur to their Valour; and at last they fell a Prey to the poor numerous Nations of the Goths and Vandals: But now the Case alters, 'tis the longest Purse, and not the longest Sword that conquers Nations: The Art of War has Conquer'd the Bravery of the Warriour; and the Most Christian King, who gain'd Victories enough the last War to have subdu'd two Worlds, was oblig'd at last, by the meer Expence of the War, to think of making an end of it, tho' by restoring the vast Conquests he had gain'd. Thus a Prince may now beat his Enemy, till he is himself absolutely subdued by Victory, and run on with uninterrupted Conquests till he is undone.

The Battle of *Lunden* was a great Victory, and yet we saw the King of *France* less able to meet the Confederates the next Year after it than before; and the Loss of *Namure* was the next Consequence of that successful Campaign: 'Tis plain what a rising Wealth is able to do, by Examining what we have done in these Nations for about 16 Years past, and comparing it with what we were able to do in former times.

Had Queen *Elizabeth* been to raise 80 Millions Sterling to have carry'd on Her War against *Spain*, what must have become of these Nations?

Spain was broke by Stratagems, by the Obstinacy of his blind Courtiers pushing at the Low Country War: Had the King of *Spain* ceased his Persecuting the *Flemings*, but granted them Liberty of Conscience, he had been able to have

reduc'd the whole World, and Form'd the Universal Monarchy; which the House of *Austria* was then as much suspected to be contriving, as the House of *Bourbon* has been since.

Philip the Second was heard to say, the *Flemish* War had cost him 360 Millions, and 300000 Men. 'Tis allow'd his Soldiers were then the best in the World, and *Henry* the 4th of *France*, who frequently try'd them to his Cost, gave the *Spanish* Foot the Testimony of being the best Infantry in the World. When the Duke of *Parma* relieving *Paris* before his Face, repass'd the *Oyse* in the Face of his more numerous Army without Fighting, and at last March'd thro' the whole Province of *Picardy*, and could never be forc'd to Engage; of which I shall speak at large, when the Course of these Papers shall return me to the History of the Protestants in *France*, which I have not at all laid by, otherwise than as they may come in order to be spoken to, when the strange things I have advanc'd, and which some People are pleas'd to cavil at, relating to that Great King *Henry*, will more plainly be made out, and the Ignorance of the Objector appear.

But to the Case in hand, it seems to me plain, and I hope I am not arrogant in saying, That the reducing the Price of our Manufactures will run us up to all those Extremes, and weaken our Hands abroad, as it weakens our Sinews at Home; and therefore it cannot be the Interest of *England* to reduce the Price of the Wages of our Poor.

I think I need spend no time in enlarging on the second Head, viz. That our Esteem abroad, and the Figure we shall make in the World will sink, in proportion to the sinking of our Wealth at Home.

All Nations are valu'd by their Strength, and that Strength is now measur'd by their Wealth.

Why else do not the *Scots* make an equal Figure in the World to the *English*? They are Equally Brave in the Field, and Equally Numerous abroad, if not beyond us; but the Case is plain, they are Poor at Home: When they raise Armies, they cannot furnish them, nor maintain them abroad, and therefore they are only valued as Regiments in Pay, not as a Nation; and their Figure (not but that their ill Conduct adds to their Misfortune) is meaner than their Merit.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

THE Society have frequently receiv'd Letters reflecting on the Author of the *Post-man*—Some of which, have really Charges that are not Matter of Fact, others reflecting on Errors of the Printer, whose Understanding there are some particular Reasons, why that Author should not Answer for.

At last here comes a Gentleman, and gives a home Charge upon the Author first, and next upon our Society for Partiality in refusing to take Notice of it—

Both which, with Impartial Justice to the Authors, are as follows.

Gentlemen,

WE are sensible ye prevent by your Review, the Imposition of many Careless Errors on the Publick; be pleas'd to grant the following Paragraphs Admittance into your next Paper, and we doubt not, you'll thereby add Diligence to their Authors, and Oblige

March 29.

Your humble Servants,

1705.

Legeon.

The *Post-Man*, N. 1387.

From Tuesday, March 27, to Thursday,

March 29. 1705.

Paris, March 30. "The King received an Express from *Piemont* the 27th Instant, with Advice, That the Governour of *Verue* has once more refus'd to Surrender that Place; whereupon they continue to Batter it with a great deal of Fury. * That General has return'd Thanks to His Majesty, for the Leave he had given him to come hither, and signified, that immediately after the Siege was over, he would march towards the *Adige*, to oppose the Passage of the Imperial Troops.

* That General: *Here's no General before mention'd, but the Governour of Verue*; and if he be the Relative, the Sequel informs us, "The King of France has Invited him to Paris, for which he returns his Majesty Thanks, and signifies his Design to oppose the Passage of the Imperial Troops.

THIS is follow'd with another upon himself, thus.

Scandal. Gentlemen,

WE have sometimes troubled ye with Queries, but ye never gave your selves the Trouble to Answer, which makes us dubious of better Success now; however we're resolv'd to try, viz.

Pray why do ye Expose in your Paper, the Authors of the Gazette, London-Post, English-Post, Elixir or Marrow of Foreign News, &c. upon the Commission of a Blunder, and refuse to do the like by the Author of the *Postman*?

Reprehensio semper vel meliores vel cautiores sapientes reddit.

Gentlemen,

We had no spiteful Design against the Penman of the *Post-Man*; but to render him cautiorem in the Revisal of his Paper, before he commits it to Publick View.

Fideles existima non eos qui omnia & dicta tua & facta laudant, sed qui etiam errata & delicta reprehenderint. *Socrates*.

Perhaps there's a Pecuniary Understanding betwixt your Club, and this Gentleman; if this, or somewhat Homogeneous, be the Reason, and you're ashamed to declare it publicly, if you'll be so free to inform us thereof by a Letter to be left for us at Mr. Matthews, the Matter shall remain conceal'd by

April 12.

Your humble Servants,

1705.

Legeon.

The Author of this, gives his Answer to both these in short, as follows.

'Tis true, he omitted the Publishing the first Letter on the *Post-Man*, because having narrowly observ'd, That the Author of the *Post-Man* was always the most careful of his Stile, as well as Matter, of any Paper now Publish'd; when he made any Slip, carefully Corrected it; and in short, Wrote both most to the Purpose, and most worth Reading of any Paper yet Extant, he thought it was not either worth the Societies while, or suitable to their propos'd Design of Reforming Errors, to Expose him for one Mistake.

Secondly, They Declare they cannot be guilty of any Partiality in this, because they have pass'd by many more Mistakes in, and spar'd the

the Errors of every Paper, besides what they have Animadverted upon, much more than they have in this.

Thirdly, For Bribes, Correspondence, Con- cert, or any Homogeneous Affair, as this Au- thor is pleas'd to call it, 'tis below that Author to offer it; his way of Performance, has no oc- casion for it; 'tis below our Society to Accept it, and it ought to be below any Honest Man to suggest it, unless they could make it out.

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